

BIBLIOTHECA MEDICA CANADIANA



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Le Bibliotheca Medica Canadiana est publié bimestrelle par la Association des Bibliothèques de la Santé du Canada. Un abonnement à cette publication fait partie de votre cotisation annuelle en tant que membre de l'ABSC. Pour devenir membre et, pour recevoir cette publication il faut écrire à: M. Alan H. MacDonald, Health Sciences Library, Dalhousie University, Halifax, Nova Scotia, B3H 4H7. Les opinions exprimées dans le BMC sont celles des contributeurs et de l'éditeur, et non celles de l'ABSC.

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INFORMATION FOR CONTRIBUTORS

The Bibliotheca Medica Canadiana is a vehicle for providing increased communication among all health libraries and librarians in Canada, but has a special commitment to reach and assist the smaller, isolated health library. Feature length articles are accepted describing a wide range of health library topics: organizations, services, networks and consortia, surveys, state of the art reviews. Brief, news-length items accepted include: how-we-did-it reports, news about workshops and continuing education opportunities, news about colleagues and libraries, job announcements, new publications, and miscellaneous items. Contributors should consult recent issues for examples of types of material and general style. Bibliographic references should conform to the format used in the Bulletin of the Medical Library Association, whenever possible. Submissions in French or English are welcome, preferably in both languages. Contributions should be addressed to: P.J. Fawcett, Editor, BMC, Medical Library, University of Manitoba, 770 Bannatyne Avenue, Winnipeg, Manitoba, R3E 0W3.

Deadline for the next issue is: 2 March, 1979.

RECOMMANDATIONS AUX CONTRIBUANTS

Le but du Bibliotheca Medica Canadiana est de rendre la communication entre toutes les bibliothèques Canadiennes de la santé et les bibliothécaires plus grande mais il veut spécialement rejoindre et aider les bibliothèques isolées et de moins d'envergures. Nous acceptons tout article traitant de tous les aspects bibliothéconomiques du domaine de la santé: organisations services réseau et consortium, enquêtes exposés de synthèse. En résumé les articles nouvelles acceptés peuvent comprendre: des résumés sur la façon dont on est arrivé à trouver une solution à un projet, nouvelles sur des ateliers et des cours d'éducation permanente postes vacants, nouvelles publications, nouvelles sur des collègues et bibliothèques, et tout autre sujet. Pour les intéressés, le genre d'article et le sujet publié dans les derniers numéros peuvent vous servir d'exemples. Il serait préférable de suivre si possible le format utilisé dans le Bulletin of the Medical Library Association lorsque vous avez des références bibliographiques à citer à la fin de votre article. Des articles Français ou Anglais seront les bienvenus mais il serait souhaitable de les écrire dans les deux langues. Vous devez faire parvenir vos articles à: Patrick Fawcett, Editeur l'BMC, Medical Library, University of Manitoba, 770 Bannatyne Avenue, Winnipeg, Manitoba, R3E 0W3.

La date limite pour le prochain numéro est: 2 mars, 1979.

FROM THE EDITOR

- PJ Fawcett

Yes, this is still the official publication of the CHLA/ABSC and no, you haven't accidentally picked up something published in Scandinavia.

The last issue of the CHLA/ABSC Newsletter carried the bold threat that, barring any loud or vociferous outcry from the membership, the Newsletter would undergo a change of title. Being a national publication with a commitment to serve both major language groups, the title was singularly lopsided. It obviously needed replacing with a bilingual one. At least, that was the plan...

The editorial in that last issue suggested, somewhat tongue in cheek, a Latin title and that seemed to strike a chord with many readers. The majority of letters I received, in fact, favoured a Latin title; only one of seventeen responses suggested we leave the title as it was. While a number of reasons were given for having a Latin journal title, I think the simplest rationale appears in the letter on page 25.

One aspect of our title which I probably needn't underline is the generality of the Latin word 'medica'. In use it refers to any aspect of the field of medicine in the same way that the 'medical' in MLA encompasses nursing, pharmacy, dentistry, etcetera. A stubborn few may wonder at the intentional neglect of the more modern 'biomedica' but, like the ancient Romans, we prefer the traditional spelling.

While the title has changed, I would like to emphasize that the content, tone and appeal has not. We still adhere to the same guidelines that the Publications Committee established for the Newsletter; we still hold the special commitment to reach and assist the smaller health library worker. Barring the persistent spelling mistakes, the page opposite says the same thing as the page that appeared in the Newsletter.

Le journal a sollicité activement des articles en français et en anglais. Le BMC continuera et, nous espérons, augmentera ces demandes. Idéalement, l'éditeur d'une publication bilingue serait bilingue aussi. Cependant, dans une organisation de volontaires, on doit souvent se contenter avec ce que l'on a; en ce cas-ci, ça signifie se contenter d'un éditeur anglophone, ce qui place un fardeau sur la partie francophone de l'ABSC. Si l'on désire du français dans le BMC, des efforts devront être faits de la part du groupe francophone et non de la plume hésitante de l'éditeur à Winnipeg. Si l'on ne s'efforce pas d'écrire des articles en français, on ne devra malheureusement se contenter que des affaires officielles de l'ABSC et des communiqués de l'ICIST en français--un très pauvre exemple pour une publication canadienne.

Regardless of linguistic taste, I hope you will savour the content and intent of this issue and compare these with your expectations. If it fails to meet your standards, then obviously you should be writing for the BMC. If it meets or exceeds your wildest hopes, then you should consider helping maintain the quality achieved so far. Et, quand mon dactylo et moi massacrerons la langue française, ce qui est inévitable, soyez assurés que ce sera le résultat de mon ignorance et non d'indifférence de ma part.

Now, all I need is a good excuse for when I massacrerai the English text, too!

-PJ Fawcett est Public Services Librarian, Medical Library, University of Manitoba.

UN MOT DU PRÉSIDENT

- M.A. Flower

Au début des années '70, alors que votre Présidente s'informait sur les services offerts par les bibliothèques médicales dans les provinces canadiennes, elle avait reçu une lettre de M. David Bishop, qui était alors Bibliothécaire médical à l'Université McGill.* Il y décrivait très clairement la régionalisation des services offerts par les bibliothèques de la santé du Québec. Ces services se concentrèrent sur les 4 bibliothèques médicales universitaires, qui agissaient comme des pôles d'information pour les bibliothèques des centres hospitaliers environnants, et plus particulièrement des hôpitaux universitaires. On offrait donc à ce groupe d'hôpitaux des services de prêts auxiliaires et de prêt-entre-bibliothèques plus ou moins reconnus. Trois des bibliothèques médicales universitaires étaient de langue française: la communauté médicale de la ville de Québec s'adressait à l'Université Laval, celle de Sherbrooke s'adressait à l'Université de Sherbrooke et celle de Montréal faisait affaire avec l'Université de Montréal. Le corps médical de langue anglaise de la région de Montréal avait plutôt tendance à s'adresser à l'Université McGill. Aussi, a-t-on formé en 1967 une association des bibliothécaires des hôpitaux universitaires qui faisaient affaire régulièrement avec la Bibliothèque médicale de McGill. Il y avait également un groupe de 7 hôpitaux qui étaient affiliés à McGill pour quelques-uns de leurs programmes et qui s'adressaient aussi à l'Université de Montréal pour certains autres types d'activités.

L'association des bibliothécaires affiliés à l'Université McGill est opérationnelle depuis plus de 10 ans. Originellement, elle avait été fondée uniquement dans le but de faciliter toute communication entre la Bibliothèque médicale de McGill et les bibliothèques des centres hospitaliers qui offraient des services sur place aux membres de la faculté et aux étudiants de l'Université McGill. C'est d'ailleurs une association qui demeure toujours présente. Voilà pourquoi on reçoit tellement de demandes d'adhésion. Suite à ces demandes et à son évolution normale, la McGill Medical and Hospital Librarians' Association est présentement sur le point de remettre en question son appellation et son acte constitutif, en plus de repenser sa raison d'être et ses objectifs. Cette année une autre association qui prend de l'ampleur a été formée par un groupe de bibliothécaires de langue française, faisant affaire avec l'Université de Montréal. Ladite association a été formée à partir d'un organisme qui fonctionnait déjà depuis quelque temps.

En 1972, il avait semblé évident à M. David Bishop que ce n'était qu'une question de temps avant que les bibliothèques des hôpitaux universitaires s'adressent également aux plus petits hôpitaux, au-delà de la communauté urbaine. Cela ne demeure toutefois pas plus qu'une éventualité. En attendant, M. Castonguay et le gouvernement provincial ont changé bien des choses sur la façon d'offrir les soins médicaux dans la province. A la veille des années '80, nous assisterons au Québec, comme dans certaines autres provinces

M. David Bishop est présentement Bibliothécaire à l'Université de Californie, à San Francisco. Il est fort connu parmi les membres de la Medical Library Association.

- MA Flower is Nursing Librarian, Life Sciences Area, McGill University

canadiennes, à la régionalisation des services médicaux locaux.

Les bibliothécaires de la province de Québec forment une très forte association. C'est d'ailleurs une qualité propre au Québec. L'association pour l'avancement des sciences et des techniques de la documentation (ASTED) est divisée en plusieurs sections, dont l'une étant les bibliothèques de la santé. Les bibliothécaires de langue française et de langue anglaise, tout les deux se sont joints en un commun effort pour supporter les bibliothèques des centres hospitaliers, qui ont besoin de services auxiliaires et de formation du personnel sur les lieux. Ces besoins se font surtout sentir dans les plus petites communautés. Cette année, le président sortant de la section de la santé d'ASTED est Elaine Waddington, Bibliothécaire du Pavillon des femmes à l'hôpital Royal Victoria. Pour la durée de son mandat, l'une des plus grands soucis du comité exécutif fut de gagner plus d'appui pour les bibliothèques des centres hospitaliers. Durant la journée d'étude tenue en mai dernier à l'Université de Montréal, le conférencier invité était M. Germain Chouinard, Directeur de la Bibliothèque de la faculté de médecine de l'Université de Sherbrooke. Sa suggestion de créer au Québec un consortium de bibliothèques, tel qu'on en retrouve aux Etats-Unis, a entamé un débat animé.

Lors de la réunion annuelle, tenue dans la ville de Québec en octobre dernier, le conférencier invité était M. Robert Lavoie, Directeur général du conseil régional des services sociaux et de la santé du comté Laurentides-Lanaudière. Il a adressé l'assemblée sur "Le rôle du CRSSS dans la régionalisation des bibliothèques de la santé". Il nous a été impossible de se rendre à la réunion, mais nous avons demandé des comptes rendus à plusieurs personnes qui y ont assisté. Nous en avons reçu trois, tous plus ou moins décourageants. Chacun avait noté les suggestions que M. Lavoie avait apportées durant son discours, suggestions qui leur semblaient plutôt difficile à mettre en oeuvre au Québec aujourd'hui. Le discours lui-même avait, toutefois, une connotation familière, dont les implications ne se limitent pas uniquement à la province de Québec.

En fait, M. Lavoie n'étant pas bibliothécaire et s'adressant à l'assemblée en tant qu'administrateur régional de la santé a déclaré, "Montrez-moi les besoins des bibliothèques, l'intérêt qui suscite vos projets et les coûts à assumer". Cela semble être une tâche impossible jusqu'à ce qu'on se rende compte, une fois de plus, que c'est là l'attitude de gens qui ignorent complètement les rouages des services bibliothécaires. Le fonctionnement et les besoins d'une bibliothèque, qui nous semblent tellement évidents, passant totalement inaperçus aux yeux des individus qui n'y travaillent pas. Nous revenons donc au point de départ, c'est-à-dire, chercher un mode de communication avec l'extérieur.

C'est à l'ABSC de trouver une solution, si elle désire avoir l'impact voulu sur le corps des professionnels de la santé, en tant qu'organisme national. Notre projet CANHELP pourra possiblement démontrer à la nation quels sont les besoins des bibliothèques et quels sont les coûts à assumer. Quant à nos secteurs, travaillant chacun à des projets locaux, ils chercheront à trouver des modes de communication pour persuader les indécis dans leur région. Mais tout cela ne suffit pas. On doit pouvoir s'adresser à chaque individu afin de les convaincre du rôle que doivent jouer les bibliothèques de la santé, au sein du corps médical. Avec l'aide de vos collègues d'ASTED, on pourra peut-être trouver un mode de communication. En effet, on pourrait faire traduire

soit vers l'anglais ou le français toutes nos discussions se rapportant aux bibliothèques de la santé, afin que tous nos collègues soient mis au courant de nos activités.

Le 22 février prochain se tiendra à l'hôpital Sainte-Justine une réunion des membres de l'ABSC et des personnes qui s'intéressent à son fonctionnement. C'est Pierrette Dubuc qui présidera l'assemblée. On y discutera du rôle que pourrait jouer l'un des secteurs de l'ABSC dans la ville de Montréal. L'échange se fera dans les deux langues. On tentera de résoudre en collaboration les problèmes de communication qui affligent tous les membres des bibliothèques de la santé du Canada. Il ne s'agit pas d'un problème de communication entre les bibliothèques, car avec un peu de bonne volonté on arrive à tout. Il s'agit plutôt d'un manque de communication avec le monde extérieur.

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THE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

- M. A. Flower

Early in the 70s, when your President was inquiring about medical library services in the various provinces across Canada, one of the letters received was from David Bishop, then Medical Librarian at McGill University.* He described very clearly the way regional health library services seemed to be developing in Quebec. They centered on the four medical school libraries in the province, each of which acted as a sort of magnet for the hospital libraries in the immediate area, including especially the teaching hospitals. To this group they provided more-or-less formally recognized back-up and interlibrary loan services. Three of these clusters were primarily French-speaking: those around Quebec City connected with Laval University; those around Sherbrooke connected with the University of Sherbrooke; and those around Montreal connected with the University of Montreal. The English-speaking medical community around Montreal related more to McGill, and in 1967 an association was formed of the librarians in the teaching hospitals who dealt regularly with the McGill Medical Library. There was also an outer ring of seven hospitals which were "affiliated" with McGill in some of their programmes, and which presumably dealt even-handedly also with the University of Montreal in other aspects of their activities.

The association of librarians related to McGill has been functioning now for over ten years. It was originally formed with the very limited objective of facilitating interaction between the McGill Medical Library and the hospital libraries which were providing on-the-spot service for McGill faculty and students. It is, however, still a highly visible association of its kind. For this reason, there are many requests for admission to membership.

David Bishop is now Librarian at the University of California in San Francisco and a well known figure around the Medical Library Association.

- MA Flower is Nursing Librarian, Life Sciences Area, McGill University

As a result of these requests and its own evolution, the McGill Medical and Hospital Libraries Association is currently scrutinizing both its name and its constitution and is rethinking its purposes and objectives. An alternate French-speaking group based on the University of Montreal has this year begun to achieve formal shape, out of an organizational framework in operation for some time.

To David Bishop, it had seemed obvious in 1972 that it was just a matter of time before the university clusters reached outside the urban areas to extend their contacts to the smaller hospitals; but this still remains largely an obvious potential. In the meantime, Mr. Castonguay and provincial government agencies have changed many aspects of the delivery of health care throughout the province, and on the eve of the 80s regionalization of local services has swept Quebec just as it has other Canadian provinces.

In Quebec, librarians have a very strong association, which is indigenous to the province and very much a part of the fabric of the Quebec community. L'Association pour l'avancement des sciences et des techniques de la documentation (ASTED) is divided into several sections, including one for health libraries. In this section, both French and English librarians have come together to support hospital libraries, and to point out the needs these libraries have for back-up services and staff inservice training, especially in the smaller communities. The outgoing President of the section de la sante of ASTED this year is Elaine Waddington, Librarian at the Women's Pavilion of the Royal Victoria Hospital and, during her term of office, the development of wider support for hospital libraries had been one of the greatest concerns faced by her Executive. The Study Day in May, 1978 at the University of Montreal featured M. Germain Chouinard, Director of the Library for the Faculty of Medicine at the University of Sherbrooke. His ideas about developing consortia in Quebec such as have emerged in the United States precipitated a lively debate.

At the Annual Meeting in Quebec in October, 1978 the guest speaker was Robert Lavoie, Director General of the Regional Council of Health and Social Services for Laurentides-Lanaudiere. His topic was "The Role of the CRSSS in the Regional Networking of Health Libraries". Because it was impossible to get to that meeting, we requested reports from several people attending. Three reports were received, all more or less discouraged. Each person had picked out suggestions in M. Lavoie's speech which struck them as particularly difficult to achieve in today's Quebec. The paper itself, however, had a very familiar ring, and it was not a sound that is limited to Quebec Province.

M. Lavoie, a non-librarian speaking as a regional health administrator to librarians looking for support, said in effect: "Show me! Demonstrate the needs, and the interest, and the costs!" It sounds like an impossible task, until we realize that this is the response of people facing a mystery. Once more it is brought home to us that the dynamics of library service which seem so obvious to us are invisible to even the most sympathetic individuals outside the library business. And we are back at the beginning, searching again for some unit of communication.

It is this unit of communication which the CHLA/ABSC must find if it is to have the impact on the health community which a national organization

should have. Our CANHELP Project may well be our national demonstration of the needs and the costs. And in developing their local projects our Chapters will also be looking for forms of persuasion and ways to communicate with their own "betes noires". But in addition, we must begin to convince people one by one of the role that health libraries play in the total community. Perhaps, with the help of our colleagues in ASTED, we can find a unit of communication into which we can translate our talk about libraries, whether it is in French or in English, so that our colleagues in the health field can hear what we are saying.

On 22 February, a meeting of members and friends of the CHLA/ABSC will be held at l'Hopital Sainte-Justine under the Chairmanship of Pierrette Dubuc to discuss the role a CHLA/ABSC Chapter might play in Montreal. There, in both French and English, we hope to work out a new form of collaboration which will reinforce our relationships as we together tackle, once again, the communication problems which beset all health library people everywhere in Canada--communication, not with each other, for with good will we can achieve that; but with the rest of the world.

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NEW DIRECTOR AT CISTI

The Canada Institute for Scientific and Technical Information is pleased to announce the appointment of its new Director. Mr. Elmer V. Smith was formerly Director of Agriculture Canada's Libraries Division and from 1973 to 1976 was Chief of Library Services at Transport Canada. Mr. Smith brings to his new position nearly thirty years of experience in the field of scientific and technical information.

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SUDBURY WORKSHOP FOR HEALTH SCIENCES LIBRARY PERSONNEL

The joint OMA/OHA/RNAO library committee would like to hold a Health Sciences Library Workshop in Sudbury during the Spring of 1979. This workshop will be aimed at participants from Sudbury and the surrounding region, but is not necessarily restricted to this area. The major costs would be transportation, meals and overnight accommodation. (Residence available at \$10 per day.)

In order to determine the feasibility of such a workshop, we wish to request the names and/or number of your staff who would be interested in attending, and their qualifications. The programme, to be determined ultimately by the needs of those attending, will focus on continuing education for hospital library personnel. Some previous experience or training would be useful, but not necessary.

Formal application forms and programmes will be sent at a later date. To centralize all replies for easier tabulation, please forward your answers, as soon as possible, to: Ms. Christ Crosby, Library, Ontario Hospital Association, 150 Ferrand Drive, Don Mills, Ontario M3C 1H6.

NOTE DE SERVICE DESTINÉE AUX MEMBRES DE L'ABSC

- M.A. Flower

Il y a trois points dont je voudrais vous faire part et qui me semblent trop importants pour attendre jusqu'à la prochaine publication du bulletin de l'ABSC. D'abord, j'aimerais traiter de la liste des membres. Le comité exécutif s'est aperçu qu'il est difficile pour les membres de l'ABSC, quand vient le temps des élections, d'apporter des suggestions alors qu'ils n'ont pas reçu une liste à jour des membres de l'ABSC. Il semble que le meilleur moment pour publier la liste des membres serait à la fin de chaque année, puisque tous les nouveaux membres de l'ABSC auront alors été enregistrés. Durant la nouvelle année, nous espérons pouvoir régulariser la publication des bulletins de l'ABSC (quel qu'en soit le nouveau nom!), de façon à ce que les plans prévus par le comité de publication, c'est-à-dire, annexer une liste de membres au bulletin de décembre, soient réalisés. Cette année, nous vous enverrons une liste de membres par courrier spécial, afin que vous ne vous trouviez pas au dépourvu lorsqu'on vous demandera de nous faire parvenir vos désignations pour les candidats se présentant au comité exécutif, en début de l'année 1979.

Le deuxième point à discuter est la révision de l'acte constitutif de votre Association. Tel que je vous l'ai expliqué dans la dernière publication du bulletin de l'ABSC 8:5 et 7, en hiver 78, le comité pour la révision de l'acte constitutif a travaillé très fort pour reconstruire les échéances établies pour la fin de 1978. Un événement imprévu a toutefois interrompu sa course. En effet, nous vous avons annoncé dans le dernier bulletin que M. Alan MacDonald quittait son poste à l'Université de Dalhousie pour accepter un poste de Bibliothécaire en chef à l'Université de Calgary, dès le 1^{er} janvier 1979. Or, M. MacDonald étant Président du comité pour la révision de l'acte constitutif, joue un rôle des plus importants dans l'établissement final de la révision. Etant donné que les dates prévues pour son déménagement et pour la révision de l'acte constitutif ne coïncident pas, M. MacDonald a besoin d'un peu plus de temps.

Le comité exécutif a donc décrété que l'acte constitutif intérimaire serait en vigueur pendant 6 mois suivant la fin de 1978. Cela permettra au comité pour la révision de l'acte constitutif de terminer son travail et au comité exécutif d'en étudier et évaluer les résultats. Tel que prévu, le document final sera envoyé par le courrier à tous les membres de l'ABSC, pour qu'il soit ratifié. En attendant, nous tenons à souhaiter bon succès à Alan MacDonald pour son nouveau poste à Calgary.

En dernier lieu, j'aimerais souhaiter à tous les membres de l'ABSC, mes meilleurs vœux pour la nouvelle année qui commence.

Note: Une version anglaise de cette lettre a déjà été envoyée à tous les membres de l'ABSC avant Noël. Faute de temps, il m'a été impossible d'offrir immédiatement une traduction française. Aussi, j'aimerais présenter mes excuses aux membres francophones de l'Association.

-MA Flower est la Présidente de l'ABSC.

CLINICAL LIBRARIANSHIP IN CANADA

- Joanne Marshall

In the Winter, 1977 issue of the CHLA/ABSC Newsletter, a survey form was published for those interested or active in clinical librarianship. Earlier that year, at both regional and national meetings of the MLA, sharing sessions on clinical librarianship had been held and many librarians had expressed a need to know about the interests or experiences of other librarians in this exciting new field.

There are now a number of clinical librarian projects underway in the United States and Britain, as is readily evident from the updated bibliography which accompanies these survey results, but we also have some lively interest in Canada, too.

The purpose of this submission is to provide some background on clinical librarianship in general for the uninitiated, to briefly summarize the results of the survey, and to update the bibliography that originally appeared with the survey. In the past, it has been difficult to locate information on clinical librarianship. The concept is a relatively new one, and many of the grant proposals and reports have been unpublished. The bibliography should give you plenty of background information on existing projects, and provide the references to earlier work which you need to give support to proposals for a project in your own setting.

When you are thinking of starting a clinical librarian project, the two questions which come immediately to mind are: "What is a clinical librarian anyway? Just exactly what does a clinical librarian do?" Reading about other clinical librarian projects helps a bit in finding the answers, but it is also somewhat confusing. Everyone is doing something different! In fact, this is the neat (I think I just revealed my origin as a teenager in the Sixties by using that term) thing about clinical librarianship. It is a user-oriented service as opposed to a subject-oriented one. This means that every project will vary depending upon the needs of the users in that particular setting. Another variable is the skills and attributes of the clinical librarian. We all bring with us our special backgrounds and unique personalities (not to mention our biases). This combination of varying user needs and librarians is bound to produce a different product every time and give it a difference! This has made clinical librarianship one of the most interesting and vibrant developments to come into the health sciences library field for many years. If this is starting to sound like a pep-talk for getting involved in clinical librarianship, then that only reveals my bias!

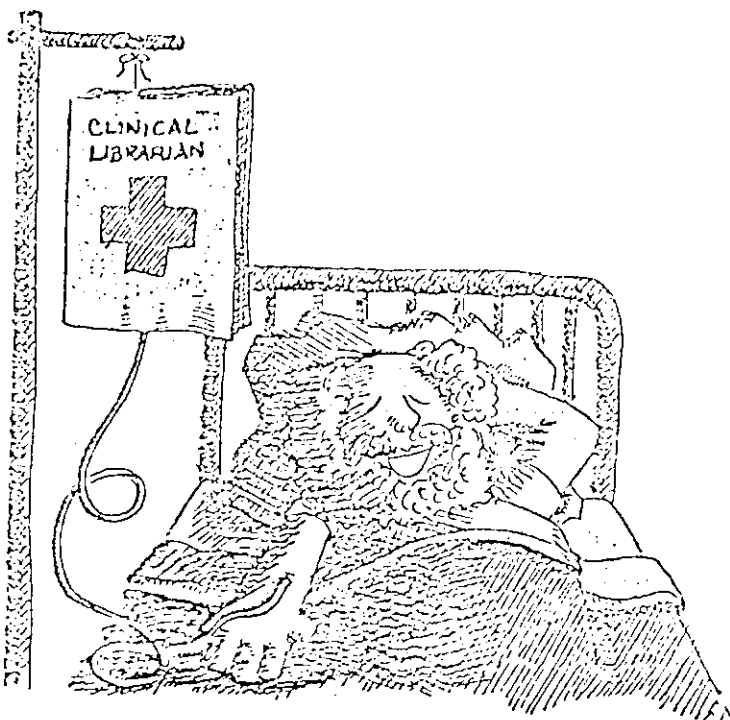
From our experience at McMaster, we have learned that it is possible to start a clinical librarianship project on a part-time basis with limited funds for related costs such as photocopying. Even a limited project has benefits for both the users and the library. On a more limited basis still, many aspects of clinical librarianship can be usefully adapted within the library itself, such as the orientation to user-based services. There are lots of possibilities, but let's go back to where we started and look at the definition of the clinical librarian.....

- J Marshall is Director, Clinical Librarian Service, Health Sciences Library, McMaster University, Hamilton.

WHAT IS A CLINICAL LIBRARIAN?

A clinical librarian provides information related to specific patient care problems by participating in patient care activities in inpatient and/or ambulatory settings and providing some of the following services:

- Document delivery of recent articles from the biomedical literature.
- Preparation of reference lists of print and audiovisual materials.
- Finding specific items of information (Eg: What do the initials MIPS on the chart mean?)
- Giving instruction in the use of the library's resources.
- Locating and providing patient information.
- Designing and implementing retrieval systems for patient care information.



The key factors here are the participation in clinical settings and the provision of information that is directly related to patient care.

Survey Results

In all, I received a total of eleven replies, representing seven provinces.

In Alberta, Judith Rendle of the Charles Camshell Hospital in Edmonton expressed an interest in clinical librarianship because she is in a teaching hospital. Diana Kent from the Woodward Biomedical Library at the University of British Columbia was still trying to start a project in the Pediatrics Department of the Vancouver General Hospital. Diana must have gained a good deal of experience in applying for funding to two foundations, but unfortunately neither foundation thought that such a programme would be within their jurisdiction. Diana has strong support from the Library administration and the Pediatrics Department and we wish her luck in future efforts. David Noble at the Cancer Control Agency in Vancouver raised some good issues related to difficulties in funding and finding time to attend clinical activities. David wanted to explore ways of retaining the clinical librarian concept for non-university based teaching hospitals. The Cancer Control Agency also provides patient information.

In Manitoba, Kathy Eagleton at Brandon General Hospital is interested in starting a project, but along with the rest of us, is hampered by budget restrictions. Nevertheless, Kathy wants to be kept in touch with happenings in clinical librarianship.

Dr. Anita Laycock at the Halifax Infirmary in Nova Scotia has a PhD in microbiology and ten years of experience in scientific research in addition to her library credentials. She has been attending medical and gastroenterology rounds, as well as doing some lecturing, and maintains files on some units. Anita is anxious to find other librarians with similar involvements.

In Ontario, Margaret Taylor at the Children's Hospital of Eastern Ontario recently began her clinical librarian activities in the Clinical Investigation and Hemodialysis Unit. She attends rounds once a week, but it all started with a request from that department to index their reprints. Margaret was quick to tell the chairman about some of the more creative contributions that could be made by a librarian. Dave Hull from the Veterinary Science Division at the University of Guelph may have a tough time providing patient information if his interest in clinical librarianship continues and he is able to start a programme. Dave is interested in knowing of any other Veterinary librarians who are participating in clinical librarianship in any way. Dora McPherson from the University Hospital in London has instituted a LATCH (Literature Attached to CHarts) programme, but does not yet feel quite ready for the jump to clinical librarianship.

At McMaster, we have received a one-year grant from the Ontario Ministry of Health to evaluate the role of the clinical librarian in providing a service to both patients and health professionals. Two new staff members have been added to the clinical librarian project; Dallas Bagby is the second clinical librarian and Sheila Lethbridge, a graduate of the Library Techniques Program, Health Sciences Option at Sheridan College in Oakville is our project assistant. Currently, Joanne Marshall is working in rheumatology and Dallas in Obstetrics. In February, we will switch to two new clinical areas for the second six-month period.

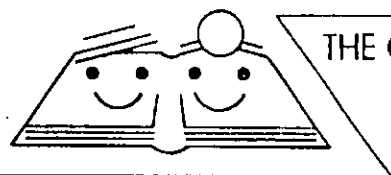
In Quebec, Sheindel Bresinger at Maimonides Hospital and Home for the Aged was actively engaged in getting a programme started in late 1977. We hope that her efforts have been successful and look forward to hearing about her experiences in geriatrics.

Back out west in Saskatchewan, Joan Prentice at the Plains Health Centre in Regina was interested in starting a programme and wants to share information with other librarians who have similar interests.

Most of this information was sent to me in late 1977 and or early in 1978 and I must apologize for taking so long to report it. The overriding need expressed by the respondents was for someone else with similar interests to talk to, so if you are interested in clinical librarianship and located nearby one of the individuals mentioned in the survey, be sure to get in touch. I would like to invite the respondents mentioned here or anyone else who is interested in clinical librarianship to contact me and let me know about their current activities. I will attempt to keep an up-to-date file and put interested people in touch with each other. Better still, perhaps we can arrange to get together during the upcoming CHLA/ABSC meeting in June in Ottawa.

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For anyone curious about the background to clinical librarianship and for those who wish to keep the reading/files current, Ms. Marshall has also provided a current bibliography which follows.



A BIBLIOGRAPHY OF CLINICAL LIBRARIANSHIP

Prepared by Joanne G. Marshall
Health Sciences Library
McMaster University

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HELP FIND A CURE FOR C14.907.489

The deadline date for submitting copy for the next issue of the BMC is 2 March, but don't let this prevent you from submitting your material right now. Remember, the sooner you get your submissions in, the better the editor will sleep at night!

ONTARIO MEDICAL ASSOCIATION BOOKLISTS

- Pamela A. Avis Pollock

Suggested List of Basic Books and Journals

Supplement 1: Medical Books and Journals

Supplement 2: Health Sciences Books and Journals

Together, the three lists shown above form the "Booklists" which are produced biennially by the Ontario Medical Association's Committee on Medical Library Services. The Committee is formed from a cross-section of physicians' specialties and non-specialties from all areas of the province.

The Booklists first appeared in 1968 and were produced yearly until production time and effort had to be curtailed. Therefore, from 1973 on, the lists were produced every two years and present plans call for this schedule to be maintained.

The lists take from six months to one year to research and so, as with any listing of titles, they may be out of date as soon as they are printed. However, publishers' catalogues are constantly scanned while the lists are in production to check for indications of new or forthcoming editions.

Our lists are based on suggestions from experts in their fields. O.M.A. Section chairmen (and others, if a Section does not cover a chosen subject) are approached with the previous lists and asked to make additions and deletions. When these altered lists are returned, they are verified through Medical Books in Print, Ulrich's and publishers' catalogues. This is always a long job as very often the titles or authors we are given to work with have vital bits of information missing!

Our editor (a member of the Committee) starts the initial cuts and then presents his draft to the whole Committee. These composite lists are scrutinized, final changes are made and the whole draft is sent for typing, proofreading and printing.

The intent of the Booklists is to serve as a fundamental starting collection for a staff library in a community active-treatment hospital. The basic list covers the more general branches of medicine through basic texts and some specialized works, while the first supplement adds a wider choice of titles and additional subject areas. The second supplement reflects the commitment of the O.M.A. to the concept of coordinated staff libraries. Committees of fellow Associations have offered their suggestions for material which should be available in the hospitals for the use of the health sciences professionals engaged in patient care. The lists are not made up of "must-buys" but instead can be looked upon as "shopping lists" of available books and journals.

I hope this background information will clarify the production of the lists and so define the role that the Booklists can play.

The three lists are available from, and comments may be addressed to: Library, Ontario Medical Association, 240 St. George Street, Toronto, Ontario M5R 2P4.

- PAA Pollock is Librarian, Ontario Medical Association

WITH APOLOGIES TO SERIALS LIBRARIANS.....

.....OUR PUBLISHING HISTORY.

Serials librarians are basically nice people without any outward signs of manic depression or bibliographic neuroses. However, merely let slip a few simple phrases such as "Change of title" or "Added volumes" and they immediately burst into belligerent fury and attempt to knock over the nearest kardex while filing the air with ancient Elvish curses.* In a noble effort to placate these exceptional types, we attach herewith a brief list of our publish history to date.

(Please do not write to Title Varies to point out the impracticality of publishing both #1 and #4 in the same season. The former editor has already acknowledged this stroke of unique individualism and has since left the country, putting himself well beyond the statute of limitations of any irate posse of serials librarians.)

Title	Number	Cover Date
CAN GROUP NEWS (published by "The Canadian Group of the Medical Library Association")	1	April, 1976
CHLA/ABSC NEWSLETTER (ISSN 0700-5474)	1	Winter, 1977
	2	Spring, 1977
	3	Fall, 1977
	4	Winter, 1977
	5	Spring, 1978
	6	Summer, 1978
	7	Fall, 1978
	8	Winter, 1978
BIBLIOTHECA MEDICA CANADIANA (ISSN 0707-3674)	Vol. 1, No. 1	1979

Postscript: Your editor, despite his offical Manitoba title, is often up to his fuzzy little ears in serial title changes. Involved in the data design and programming of an automated linedex, a kardex, a Manitoba union lists and other things that go whirr in the night, he has tremendous sympathy for those required to update serial records. The title change, he assures us, would not have been made unless it was absolutely necessary.

And where have we heard that before?

* "Springer-Verlag!" and "Up your H.K. Lewis!" being two that come to mind.

LIBRARIES AND PATIENT EDUCATION

- Anne LeBrun

The date of arrival of the Fall issue of the CHLA/ABSC Newsletter and the deadline for submitting material for the next issue so nearly coincided that it was not possible to quickly answer the invitation of the Editor for responses to the article by Edward Tawyer on the subject of Patient Education. We in the newly formed Hospital Libraries Group of the Ontario Hospital Association Region No. 9 do have a response to offer.

At the June, 1978 meeting of this group, we were addressed by two members of the nursing staff of the Ottawa Civic Hospital on the subject of Patient Education. The first speaker presented a brief history of Patient Education and the rational basis for it as seen by the medical and by the nursing staff at the Hospital. The second speaker, the Director of Media Resource Centre at the Hospital, spoke of the origins of the particular programme which is being conducted there. Following the death of a senior member of the nursing staff, Ms. Mary Cassidy, it was felt that a memorial fund in her name should be established. This lady was particularly keen on both staff and patient education and it seemed fitting that a memorial to her should be used to provide instruction sheets on the many procedures which patients undergo in the hospital setting. Draft sheets in both French and English were prepared on many procedures such as barium swallow, brain scan, ultrasonography, etc. telling patients what they might expect of the procedure; also covered was the purpose of the procedures being used, what regulations they would be asked to regard, and the sort of discomforts that they might experience, plus the expected outcomes. These draft sheets were then examined by the Nursing Advisory Committee, a body which included a physician. The sheets were revised, revamped, approved for use and then were incorporated in a large, attractive ring notebook for every nursing station and for the Library. Each page was covered with protective plastic so that it could be lifted from the notebook and given to the patient and later returned in shape for further use.

The number of procedures contained in the notebook has increased over the months and will continue to grow as the Committee receives requests for sheets describing further procedures. Beyond this formal provision for Patient Education is a collection of files and pamphlets on various diseases; written for lay people by associations concerned with particular diseases, these include such topics as arthritis, respiratory diseases, etc. These files and materials are assembled in and controlled from the Media Resource Centre. They are available to any nurse who requests them for her patients. Nursing staff are also informed of the availability of the material and are encouraged to make use of them.

The particular interest that this group has in responding to Mr. Tawyer's article has to do with the role of the hospital library in Patient Education. Many of us have experienced the fact that patients will come spontaneously into the library, sometimes in housecoats and sometimes in street clothes. Recently, for example, a gentleman came to one hospital library saying that he was facing open heart surgery and his wife, who had

- A LeBrun is the Librarian, Ontario Cancer Foundation, Ottawa Civic Hospital and Secretary, O.H.A. Region No. 9, Hospital Libraries Group.

received the swine flu shots, had developed Guillain-Barre Syndrome and was now under a psychiatrist's care. He wished to have information on the Guillain-Barre Syndrome so that he might know what future his wife faced, particularly if he did not survive the open-heart surgery. Other cases have been cited where patients have inquired about the drug they are on, or a relative whose near kin was facing surgery for a brain tumour asked for literature on brain tumours in general so that she could read about all phases of the condition and all types of brain tumours.

The librarian at the Ottawa Civic Hospital had been directed several years ago to give information to all individuals who asked for it. This directive came from the Chairman of the Medical Education Committee who is an advisor to the library. Down through the years, such information has been willingly provided, but always with the explanation that medical literature may be much deeper and more technical than the lay person both requires and comprehends. Sometimes, library staff have directed enquirers to the Nursing Library where information may be couched in much more understandable terms for their use.

Because patient education is a pressing issue for understanding by not only librarians but by all members of the health team, it was decided to make a new approach to a body of physicians at the Ottawa Civic Hospital, request their discussion and reflection on the matter, and arrive at a reasonable guideline. The librarian requested permission to attend a meeting of the Executive of the hospital's Medical Advisory Committee where she was questioned about her practice in the library over the years, and asked also if there had ever been any problems following such service to patients, either from families or from their physician. When she assured them that there had been no repercussions of any kind, they gave official agreement that the library should continue its policy, using wisdom and discretion, but responding as best as possible to patients' requests. It was not felt necessary that a patient should bring a "reading prescription" from his physician. Ironically, on the same day as the Medical Advisory Committee meeting, a physician visited the Library to ask for a bibliography on polymyositis saying that he had just been diagnosed as having the condition.

The Library's policy, now officially reaffirmed by the Executive of the M.A.C., representing over four hundred medical staff in a University affiliated teaching hospital, will serve as a firm base for similar decisions to be made in smaller hospitals in O.H.A. Region No. 9.

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How does your library handle the situation of the lay person seeking medical information? Do you have a written policy to handle the personal, legal, and practical problems involved? If you have any thoughts or documentation in this area, or any experiences with the problems or rewards of lay/patient education, please write to the BMC. If sufficient responses are received, they'll be summarized for a forum in issue #3.

-Editor

B.C. HEALTH LIBRARIES ASSOCIATION

- Dorothy Grieve

At its first meeting since organization in May, 1978, the B.C. Health Libraries Association decided to apply for Chapter membership in the Canadian Health Libraries Association.

The meeting took place on the evening of 11 October at the Sandman Inn in Vancouver, coinciding with the annual conference of the Pacific Northwest Regional Libraries Group (MLA) being held there. In the two hours available, President Bill Fraser moved through a lengthy programme on which CHLA Chapter membership was the first item. The group welcomed the prospect of an Association newsletter and Sue Absinger of the Royal Columbian Hospital agreed to serve as its initial editor. Discussion then turned to future meetings, particularly their formats, timing, and frequency, before finally looking at what projects the Association might consider undertaking. Consideration was given to cooperative activities such as a serials union list, cooperative acquisitions, and delivery services in the Lower Mainland; to health education for the public at large as well as patients; and to the Association's position to be taken on areas of health library service in British Columbia, such as regional health libraries and hospital library standards. The background provided and questions raised will prove very useful for the future.

The Association's membership was reported by Secretary-Treasurer David Noble as standing at 45, province-wide. He saw the absence of public library members as a gap that should be filled in a representation of those libraries called on to provide health information. At the meeting, the 30 or so people present came from hospitals, universities, colleges, medical societies and a government body, in all representing a total of 17 institutions. Although there was one person from Prince George and three from Victoria, most attendees were from the Greater Vancouver area and, as might be expected, the factor of geographical location inevitably appeared to affect approaches to questions of frequency and times of meetings.

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CLEARINGHOUSE FOR NURSING RESEARCH

- Sylvia Chetner

The Faculty of Nursing at the University of Alberta has started a Canadian Clearinghouse for Ongoing Research in Nursing. The Clearinghouse provides a record of nursing research in progress in Canada, indicating the topics already under investigation and the names of researchers interested in related areas.

Faculties of university schools of nursing and university programmes in health services administration have received forms to collect the required information on research being done in their institutions. The first information was entered into the computer system in September, 1977.

Access to information in the system is through the University of

- D Grieve, Reference Division, McPherson Library, University of Victoria

Alberta Computing Services using procedures described in the "Users Manual for Canadian Clearinghouse for Ongoing Research in Nursing." There are no direct costs for qualified personnel wishing to search the system. Computer costs for both entry and retrieval of data are being absorbed for the initial period by the Faculty of Nursing, University of Alberta. The only cost which may be involved for some users of the system is any service charge made by a library for conducting the search. Data is entered in and may be retrieved in either French or English.

Further information on the Clearinghouse is readily available by contacting: Dr. Charles H. Davis, Faculty of Library Science, University of Alberta, Edmonton, Alberta T6G 2G3 or: Ms. Amy E. Zelmer, Faculty of Nursing, University of Alberta, Edmonton, Alberta T6G 2G3.

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INTERNATIONALLY RENOWNED THINKERS ADDRESS EDMONTON SYMPOSIUM

- Sylvia Chetner

'Man--his mind, his feelings, his world' was the title of a very stimulating symposium held in Edmonton on 16-18 October, 1978. The symposium was organized by the College of Clinical Social Workers of Alberta and drew an audience of close to 700 participants.

How is man to survive in this increasingly complex society? This was the overall theme of the symposium. Bringing to the discussion their own particular background and expertise, each of the five invited speakers focused on one area of influence on man's life. Richard Leakey spoke on 'Our Beginnings', R. Buckminster Fuller on 'Our Physical World', novelist Alex Haley looked at 'Our Social World', Hans Selye spoke on 'Our Physical Self' and Rollo May examined 'Our Emotional Self'.

A reaction panel followed each of the keynote speakers. Three additional evening programmes gave the attendees an opportunity to hear each of the speakers in dialogue with each other.

At the close of the symposium, the participants agreed that they had been offered not only a rare opportunity to hear five distinguished speakers but had also received an opportunity to broaden their understanding of the many influences that shape our lives in today's world.

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SOLAR ECLIPSE IN MANITOBA -- 26 FEBRUARY, 1979

And four days after the solar eclipse is the deadline for the next issue of the BMC. Submissions are welcome in English or French (or something approximating either) until 2 March, 1979.

- S Chetner, Medical Sciences Library, University of Alberta

DIRECTORY OF HEALTH SCIENCE LIBRARIES IN CANADA

The Canada Institute for Scientific and Technical Information has contracted with Schick Information Systems, Ltd. of Edmonton to identify and survey all health science libraries in Canada. Approximately 3,000 health-related organizations will be contacted in the effort to compile a comprehensive directory of Canadian health science libraries.

The project is well under way; questionnaires were mailed on 5 January with the requested return date of 28 January, 1979. All data collected will be converted to machine-readable form so that the Directory can be easily updated. The data base itself will be a valuable aid for the Health Sciences Resource Centre of CISTI in carrying out its mandate as national coordinator for health science information resources.

The project will be completed by 31 March, 1979 with publication of the bilingual directory shortly thereafter.

PUBLICATIONS DU L'ICIST/CBSS

L'Édition de 1979 de Dépôts canadiens des revues indexées pour MEDLINE (anciennement Bibliothèques canadiennes détenant les périodiques répertoriés dans l'Index Medicus) sera lancée par l'ICIST fin février. Cette publication englobe maintenant les "listes spéciales" (art dentaire, sciences infirmières et reproduction) recensées dans la List of Journals Indexed in Index Medicus (1979). Elle se vend \$10.

Le CBSS continuera de publier Périodiques commandés en sciences de la santé en 1979. Cette publication mensuelle, qui énumère tous les nouveaux périodiques commandés par les principales bibliothèques canadiennes des sciences de la santé, se vend \$6.

Prière d'adresser les commandes comme suit: Section des publications, ICIST/CNRC, Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0S2.

RÉPERTOIRE DES BIBLIOTHÈQUES DES SCIENCES DE LA SANTÉ AU CANADA

L'Institut canadien de l'information scientifique et technique a chargé la société Schick Information Systems d'Edmonton d'identifier et de recenser toutes les bibliothèques des sciences de la santé au Canada. Cette société communiquera avec quelque 3,000 organismes en vue de préparer un répertoire complet des bibliothèques canadiennes des sciences de la santé.

Le travail va bon train; les questionnaires ont été mis à la poste le 5 janvier et on a demandé de les retourner le 28 janvier 1979 au plus tard. Les données recueillies seront transcrites sous une forme lisible par machine, ce qui facilitera les mises à jour. La banque de données aidera le CBSS à jouer son rôle de coordonnateur national des ressources documentaires en sciences de la santé.

Ce projet doit être terminé le 31 mars 1979 et un répertoire bilingue sera publié peu après.

Many Canadian library staffs will remember Mr. Roy Tabor's visit across our country a few years ago and may be interested in the announcement of the following publication:

LIBRARIES FOR HEALTH: the Wessex experience.

A collection of experiences contributed by the staff of the Wessex Regional Library and Information Service, 1967-1977. Edited by R.B. Tabor.

Wessex was the first National Health Service region to appoint a Regional Librarian to take full responsibility for the development of library service. To mark the tenth anniversary of that appointment, the library staff in Wessex decided to record some of the experiences in setting up the Wessex Regional Library and Information Service (WRLIS). It is written for librarians and all those who are interested in library services for health care. It is not an attempt to describe in detail the organization of WRLIS but rather seeks to illustrate aspects of that service which the library staff themselves consider to be important.

Contents: Introduction; The Wessex region. Principles; The beginning of WRLIS and the role of the health care library, Research into users needs, Information for management, Clinical library services, Libraries and nursing education, Patient information service. Coordination; The Regional Library Unit, Measurement and monitoring, Cataloguing, Audio-visual services, User education, Budgeting, In-service training. Libraries in action; Library in a rural setting, A single-handed library service, Communication and display, Libraries and the mentally ill, The voluntary worker, Patient information in practice.

Copies of the book are available for £4.50 each prepaid from the Wessex Regional Library and Information Service (Publications), South Academic Block, Southampton General Hospital, Southampton, U.K. SO9 4XY. Cheques should be made payable to the Hampshire Area Health Authority.

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CISTI/HSRC PUBLICATIONS

The 1979 edition of Canadian Locations of Journals Indexed for MEDLINE will be available from CISTI in late February. The scope of this publication (formerly Canadian Locations of Journals Indexed in Index Medicus) has been enlarged by including locations for the dental, nursing and reproduction "special lists" included in the 1979 List of Journals Indexed in Index Medicus. Price: \$10.00.

HSRC will continue to prepare Health Science Serials on Order in 1979. This monthly publication lists all new serials on order in major Canadian health science libraries.

Orders should be addressed to: Publication Section, CISTI/NRC, Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0S2.

TO THE EDITOR

There is always something highly suspicious about a publication that prints a selection of letters-to-the-editor which tend on the whole to be very flattering. In modern paranoia, it begs the question: What did they get that they're not publishing?

The reason for this feature, at the risk of falling victim to the above, is actually two-fold: as mentioned elsewhere in this issue, the response to the last (literally) issue of the CHLA/ABSC Newsletter was remarkable and the membership should receive some recognition for an enthusiastic interest in their organization; also, the comments received by the editor are often of interest to the entire membership and should be shared with them, even tardily.

What follows then are excerpts from letters received by the editor in the last three months. Lest this display discourage anyone else from writing, I should add that anyone NOT wanting their prose shared with the membership should merely say so in their letter and it will NOT be reprinted.

14 December, 1978

I received the latest issue of CHLA/ABSC Newsletter about a month ago. However, in an effort to maintain my image as a harried one-man-band-librarian, too busy, etc...etc...I have only just read it today. I must say, with great emphasis and blaring of trumpets in the background, that the last page made my day. I started writing another letter to the Newsletter in the summer, the point of which was -- where is the editorial content which is "to reach and assist the smaller, isolated health library"? I confess I never finished the letter because I honextly felt it wasn't worth while.

Your postscript has given me hope. The areas of competence summarized on p. 8 and 9 of the same issue read like my job description. On a small scale, I am involved in all of these activities and more in a hospital setting which only employs me on a part-time basis. Having come from a background of working in a large university science and medicine library it has been an interesting adjustment for me.

There must be others like myself "out there". I would be interested in writing for the Newsletter if only for my own edification. The problems and challenges in this setting are unique and stimulating and demand that we make use of unconventional resources at times. I hope your article succeeds in drawing others in similar situations into the limelight.

By the way, I notice that the new pope died and the postal workers went back to work. Don't let this omen worry you. This was one of the first library publications I have read in a long time with some humour in it. All other recent current events fade into the background.

Congratulations!

Marilyn E. Mathews
Librarian
St. Mary's General Hospital
Kitchener, Ontario N2M 1B2

7 December, 1978

I enjoyed reading your witty editorial. Medicine and medical librarianship is, and must be, considered international. Indeed, a Latin title as you suggested would eliminate the language problem and emphasize the above. My proposition would be "Bibliotheca Medica Canadiana". In a subtitle on the title page but not the cover, the bilingual title can be affixed i.e. Canadian Health Libraries Association des Bibliothèques de la Santé du Canada - Journal.

Another argument for Latin is -- etiam in latino possumus scribere! --see your patron's smart quotation in op. cit. p. 15 3rd paragraph.

I am glad you have accepted the job. Staff of this library will continue to contribute.

Best wishes for Christmas. Deliver please a kiss to Audrey, in my name, for her article.

Andras K. Kirchner
Medical Librarian
Faculty of Medicine
University of Calgary T2N 1N4

To the foregoing, the editor replied, in part:

I was surprised not only by the volume of response to my editorial but also by the large majority who favoured a Latin title. After some consideration (largely over my complete lack of French), I gather up all of the suggestions and sent them to David Crawford with the plea that he select and/or create a new title in his bilingual setting. As Publications Chairman, David was similarly impressed by your suggested title and after some hectic polling of the Executive by telephone, he called me with the final decision.

The cover is now being designed with an emphasis on the initials BMC and, while maintaining the full three word title, we're expecting members will come to regard the journal by just the name BMC. (We're also hoping that the British Medical Association will not take affront!)

Your letter asked that I deliver a kiss to Audrey for her article. I discharged this commission faithfully in the presence of witnesses but the recipient was, to gently understate matters, unimpressed. She retreated to her office muttering something about 'lack of charm' and 'not the same' and 'these kids today...' I hastened after her to offer the possibility that what Andras obviously had and I still lacked might yet be coming with age, but Audrey begged leave to doubt it. (Somehow, it is hard to exude "old-world charm" at the age of 28!)

28 November, 1978

Please find enclosed an article for the next newsletter. It has been sitting on my desk for quite awhile after receiving the OK from my Library Committee, but your recently received editorials finally prompted me to send it. Will this let me off the hook, now? (I must add that I enjoyed your pieces and will try harder to come up with more copy.)

I think I prefer the less scholarly articles and tend to read more

thoroughly the "newsy" pieces. Perhaps that is why the present title never bothered me. In so saying, I don't have any ideas to give you for a new title--sorry. Quite frankly, that is just the way I think of it--as a newsletter.

Keep up the good work!

Pamela A. Avis Pollock
Librarian
Ontario Medical Association
240 St. George Street
Toronto, Ontario M5R 2P4

18 December, 1978

I am quite content with the current title and the present format of the newsletter.

Veronica L. Brunka
Toronto, Ontario

30 November, 1978

This letter is in response to your request for titles for the Newsletter. Your suggestion of Acta Medica Bibliotheca Canadensis seems to be most acceptable for both language groups. The only alternative I can suggest is Bulletin of the Canadian Medical Library Association.

While I can appreciate the rationale behind the current practice of using the term 'health sciences' instead of 'medical', the former term has always seemed euphemistic to me. We should also consider what the journal title will convey to a reader (possibly in another country) when our publication is picked up and indexed by Index Medicus.

Mae Morley
Librarian
Kingston Psychiatric Hospital
Kingston, Ontario K7L 4X3

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UN NOUVEAU DIRECTEUR À L'ICIST

L'Institut canadien de l'information scientifique et technique a le plaisir d'annoncer la nomination de son nouveau directeur. M. Elmer V. Smith était auparavant directeur des bibliothèques d'Agriculture Canada et, de 1973 à 1976, directeur des services de bibliothèque de Transports Canada. C'est avec près de 30 années d'expérience dans le domaine de l'IST que M. Smith entre dans l'exercice de ses nouvelles fonctions.

AND NOW, FROM THE FOLKS WHO BROUGHT YOU NATURWISSENSCHAFTEN.....

Quite recently, not a few health sciences librarians across the continent have been confronted by the riddle: "When is a blood cell like a nouvelle revue française d'hématologie..." Mrs. Berti Le Sieur, the head of Technical Services at McGill University's Medical Library, has given the BMC a copy of a letter received by their Cataloguing Department from the New York office of Springer-Verlag, original perpetrators of the riddle. Some readers may find what follows to be very revealing.

"Thank you for your inquiry regarding our publications BLOOD CELLS and NOUVELLE REVUE FRANCAISE D'HEMATOLOGIE. We can appreciate your confusion concerning the relationship between these two journals and will do our best to clarify the situation.

For two years prior to 1978 our journal BLOOD CELLS was reprinted, cover to cover, and was incorporated in the French publication NOUVELLE REVUE. However, apart from the special permission given Masson (the publisher of NOUVELLE REVUE prior to 1978) to reprint our journal BLOOD CELLS, we continued to publish BLOOD CELLS as an independent English language journal. This was a limited agreement between Masson and Springer-Verlag and allowed for reproduction of only Volumes 2 and 3 (1976-1977) of BLOOD CELLS.

Beginning in 1978, Volume 20, Springer-Verlag took over the publishing rights of NOUVELLE REVUE FRANCAISE D'HEMATOLOGIE. Since BLOOD CELLS is relatively new publication Springer-Verlag decided to continue to send the journal to all subscribers of NOUVELLE REVUE as a supplement for an additional year. This special promotion of BLOOD CELLS was based on the premise that readers of the French language publication (NOUVELLE REVUE) would familiarize themselves with the new English language publication (BLOOD CELLS). Therefore, in 1978 we are publishing Volume 20 of NOUVELLE REVUE (including BLOOD CELLS Volume 4 as a supplement). Volume 4, 1978 of BLOOD CELLS still remains an independent journal. However, as of 1979 BLOOD CELLS will no longer be sent to subscribers of NOUVELLE REVUE but will have to be ordered separately.

We fully realise the confusion such an arrangement has caused Librarians but wish to assure you that in 1979 there will be a clear-cut distinction between both our publications and that subscribers to NOUVELLE REVUE will no longer be receiving BLOOD CELLS on a complimentary basis. We trust that you will continue to subscribe to both journals in 1979 and also wish to thank you at this time for your continued interest and support.

Sincerely yours,
Denise Rummell
Journal Sales Department
Springer-Verlag New York Inc.

(Editor's Note:

(While it would be unseemly to comment here on the motives or responsibility) (shown in Springer-Verlag's actions, we have noticed an increase in drinking) (amongst our kardexing staff...)

BOOKS, MANUSCRIPTS, AND THE HISTORY OF MEDICINE:

A symposium on the 50th anniversary of the Osler Library
29 May, 1979

Sir William Osler successfully united, as few others have done, interests in libraries, bibliography, and the history of medicine. He actively participated in the early years of the Medical Library Association and was in his seventh year as President of The Bibliographical Society (London) when he died in 1919. His large and carefully thought-out collection of books and manuscripts in the history of medicine was subsequently bequeathed to McGill University. His uncompleted works included the catalogue raisonnée of that collection, the Bibliotheca Osleriana (finished in 1929 by W. W. Francis, R. H. Hill, and Archibald Malloch), and the Incunabula Medica (published in 1923 and edited by Victor Scholderer).

1979, the 50th anniversary of the reception of Osler's bequest at McGill University, and seventy-five or so years since he actively began collecting books and manuscripts in the history of medicine, seems an appropriate time to examine in what ways the history of medicine, medical libraries, and bibliography still occupy common ground.

Towards this end, five scholars will prepare for a general audience of historians, librarians, bibliographers, and all other interested persons, papers on Osler's activity as a bibliographer and especially his years as President of The Bibliographical Society; twentieth century developments in physical bibliography; their implications for history of medicine collections; recent technological developments in reference bibliography, such as MEDLINE and MEDLARS and their importance for history of medicine collections; and developments over the past fifty or seventy-five years in the study of medieval and renaissance manuscripts.

The participants are:

Estelle Brodman, Librarian and Professor of Medical History,
Washington University School of Medicine.

Richard J. Darling, Institut für Geschichte der Medizin und Pharmazie
der Christian-Albrechts-Universität, Kiel.

Eric Freeman, Librarian, Wellcome Institute, London, U.K.

Charles G. Roland, Jason A. Hannah Professor of the History of
Medicine, McMaster University, Hamilton, Ontario.

G. Thomas Tanselle, Vice President, John Simon Guggenheim Foundation,
New York.

The participants were chosen for their distinguished record of scholarship as well as for their willingness and ability to address audiences outside their specialities.

There will be no registration fees. Everyone is cordially invited to attend this symposium on Tuesday, 29 May, 1979.

Anyone wishing further information is invited to write to: Philip M. Teigen, History of Medicine Librarian, Osler Library, 3655 Drummond Street, Montreal, Quebec H3G 1Y6. Motel/hotel information is also available for those requesting it.

NEWS ITEMS

An Excerpta Medica workshop will be held at the Data Centre, Department of Computer Sciences, University of Calgary on the morning of 2 April, 1979. This will be followed a few weeks later by a MEDLINE update session for the prairie region to be sponsored on either 19-20 April or 26-27 April.

On Tuesday, 9 January, 1979 a workshop was held on the new edition of the National Library of Medicine Classification Schedule at the Health Sciences Library, McMaster University. The workshop, under the able direction of Ms. Linda Panton, was given for the members of the Wentworth-Hamilton Health Library Network (librarians of the District Health and Hospital Libraries). The aim of the session was to give some guidance on how much the small library should do retrospective changes if the new schedule is used, and also to provide a forum for discussion on a number of other cataloguing and classification problems.

The Osler Library of the History of Medicine has announced the appointment of Ms. Olga Werbowyj as acting Technical Services Librarian. In addition to preparing for the 50th Anniversary celebration later this spring (voir page 28), the Library has also opened a new wing called the W.W. Francis Wing, which will include the H. Rocke Robertson Rare Book Room.

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BMC PUBLISHING SCHEDULE, Volume 1, 1979.

	Copy Closing	To Printing	Dispatch
#1	19 January	2 February	16 February
#2	2 March	16 March	30 March
#3	27 April	11 May	25 May
#4	6 July	20 July	3 August
#5	7 September	21 September	5 October
#6	9 November	23 November	7 December

CURRENTLY READABLE

Jensen JE

The JCAH, hospital libraries and the faculty library.
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Mattern G

Teenage sex and the librarian.
JAMA 240(20):2154-2155, 10 Nov 1978.

Marshall JG et al

The clinical librarian and the patient: Report of a project at McMaster University Medical Centre.
Bull Med Libr Assoc 66(4):420-425, Oct 1978.

Graves KJ et al

Hospital library consortia: a vital component of hospital-wide education.
J Contin Educ Nurs 9(5):22-25, Sep-Oct 1978.

McCarn GH

The on-line user network: organization and working procedures.
Med Inf (Lond) 3(3):211-223, Sep 1978.

Fawcett PJ

Personal filing systems revisited.
Ear Nose Throat J 57(9):410-413, Sep 1978.

Martin JC

Too little...too late.
Dimens Health Serv 55(9):8-9, Sep 1978.

Van Gieson WR

The hospital library in transition.
Hosp Prog 59(6):66-69, Jun 1978.

Mundt JL

Hospital libraries' consortium blunts impact of budget cuts.
Hospitals 52(11):75-76, 78, 1 Jun 1978.

Inquiry services--U.S.A.--Canada.

Nursing (Horsham) 8(5):60-64, May 1978.

Dauble DA

Establishing the health science library in the rural, cross-cultural setting.
JNE 16(9):33-37, Nov 1977.

Atkinson RD

Medical Information Bureau: what is is and what it isn't.
Can Med Assoc J 117(7):806-808, 8 Oct 1977.

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POSTSCRIPT

In my previous incarnations as an editor, six in all, I have always written the obligatory editorial platitudes pleading for reactions or submissions from the readership. In the last decade, I can remember receiving a grand total of two letters: as editor of a student newspaper in Alberta in 1968 I got a letter from someone in Quebec insisting I was a racist because I advocated special status for the French but not for blacks or Indians; as editor of a library bulletin in Manitoba in 1973, I got a letter from Brandon where a reader complained that she received her copy long after everyone else and when were we going to realise that there was more to Manitoba than just Winnipeg?

The reason I mention all this is because I have discovered that the CHLA/ABSC is a very remarkable organisation. I wrote an editorial in the final Newsletter and anticipated a response from the membership commensurate with past experiences: something between zero and nil. Instead, I received a total of 17 letters. Seventeen! After the first dozen, I went back and re-read that editorial several times with the vague suspicion that I had somehow imbued a subliminal message in it that was compelling people to reply. I found none, naturally. I can only conclude that, as a group, health science library workers are a more enthusiastic, involved membership than any I have ever known before. Take a bow!

I had ambitions of introducing the BMC's new symbol, designed for me by graphic artist Glen Reid of Winnipeg, with a little background on why it came to be and perhaps throwing in a hokey name-the-beaver contest; but in the last week the metaphorical roof has fallen in on me. Anyone who has thought that this journal is planned, composed, typed and produced in an organised fashion hasn't been exposed to the long-distance phone calls, the frantic telex messages, conflicting priorities, dead typewriters, blown seminars, backed-up sewers, telephone translations, frozen gas-lines and rampant hysteria that really goes on around here. To say nothing of the Great Abyss of our postal service. And on 17 January, I tried to phone the Woodward Biomedical Library in Vancouver and was told by the operator that it did not exist.

Someday I hope to write it all down and make a fortune on the paperback rights.

Peace.

